

WSAG

29 APR 75

(DCI's copy)

29 April 1975

DCI BRIEFING FOR
29 APRIL WSAG MEETINGVIETNAM

I. Government defenses around Saigon have crumbled in the past 12 hours, in the face of heavy North Vietnamese ^{pressure} assaults. Communist forces are now on the outskirts of the capital and clearly in position to occupy it.

A. The attack began early this morning Saigon time with ^{heavy} massive artillery and rocket bombardments of the Tan Son Nhut airfield.

1. ^{Number of} ~~Many~~ aircraft, including one US transport involved in the evacuation of refugees, were destroyed on the ground.

2. ~~The government~~ ^{have begun to} ordered all South Vietnamese aircraft to evacuate. Some of the government planes struck nearby Communist positions, and at least three were shot down by SA-7 missiles.

a. Many of the aircraft and helicopters

flew to Can Tho, while others went to bases outside South Vietnam or to US ships off the coast.

3. Tan Son Nhut is now closed. The runways are cratered and littered with debris. At last report, large unruly mobs were in various parts of the base.

B. The Communists followed the Tan Son Nhut assault with a spate of small attacks in the suburbs of the capital.

1. Sappers attacked the large military communications site at Phu Lam on the southwestern edge of Saigon, [REDACTED]

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2. Government units just northwest of the capital abandoned their positions, and a number of South Vietnamese outposts to the west were lost as the result of ground attacks.

3. [REDACTED] the Communists are preparing to shell the Presidential Palace and the Joint General Staff Headquarters. *and the latter has taken place.*

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C. Law and order in Saigon are breaking down, sparked by ~~the~~ the panic to evacuate.

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C. North Vietnamese forces also launched large scale assaults on Saigon's outer defenses.

1. A large Communist force, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked the South Vietnamese 25th Division at Cu Chi. []

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[] the 25th is withdrawing, and the North Vietnamese are pushing on to the capital.

2. ~~In the northern delta,~~ heavy fighting has broken out along Route 4 near Binh Chanh, and the Communist forces attacking in that area could reach Cholon and the southern outskirts of Saigon within hours.

D. East of the capital, []

a. The South Vietnamese 22nd Division is reportedly fleeing toward Can Tho.

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[] North Vietnamese forces have moved into Bien Hoa, and are now pushing west.

1. Communications have been lost with the South Vietnamese defending Vung Tau, and that city probably has fallen.

II. The Minh government has been overtaken by events, and a complete North Vietnamese military takeover in Saigon appears inevitable.

Today or tomorrow

E. We have no information on the situation in the delta, beyond our helicopter attack on our evacuation Consulate General group south the river.

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A. In his inaugural address ^{yesterday,} Minh called for a ceasefire in order to arrange "a political solution within the framework of the Paris Agreement."

B. The North Vietnamese and PRG reacted to this by characterizing the new government as "just another reactionary administration," and re-

iterated their series of escalating demands, ^{especially for} the elimination of the South Vietnamese "war machine" and the dismantling of the ^{govt's} ~~which~~ ^{administrative} apparatus. ^{These} ⁱⁿ ^{effect} amount to a call for unconditional surrender.

III. ~~Once in control of Saigon, the North Vietnamese probably will see merit in creating an ostensibly independent southern regime with some "third force" elements thrown in for cosmetic purposes.~~

A. ~~Such a government would have little substance, however, and would be a way station -- perhaps a short one -- on the road to complete reunification.~~

^{Prime Minister}
C. At 1300 hours ^{Van Van Mau} --

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29 Apr 75

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